



The Magpie

The Wildlife Society / Sacramento-Shasta Chapter



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CHAPTER NEWS

Randi Logsdon

A lot has happened since June. The Chapter hosted a successful professional mixer with PEMA and AEP, a Wildlife Biologist certification workshop, a members' barbeque and nature tour at the Cosumnes River Preserve, and has been discussing partnering opportunities with AEP and PEMA to increase networking reach and encourage membership for all organizations.

The Chapter had planned a members' only rafting trip, which was canceled due to lack of attendance. Though there was a low turnout for our social event, there were high turnouts for the certification workshop and professional networking mixers. In these challenging economic times, the Chapter is shifting its focus and its expenditures toward practical, informative events, to help facilitate the professional development and success of its members, based on membership response.

In this issue you will find the Chapter still has much to offer before the end of the year. Still in the works are: a brown-bag seminar lecture in October on stochastic events and the long-term monitoring of wildlife, our natural resources symposium in November, National and Western Section conferences, and opportunities for scholarships. All of this seriousness doesn't mean the Chapter doesn't still know how to have fun. We will certainly look forward to another holiday party, where we can all kick back, be giddy, and enjoy each other's fascinating stories.

For the most current updates on Chapter professional development, social events, and other local wildlife-related info: Join us on Facebook! Search for "Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society" and choose "Like". Also visit us on our web site: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/sacramentoshasta/>.

Key Words in this Issue: invasive plants, membership barbecue, Cosumnes River Preserve, restored wetlands, brown bag series, long-term wildlife monitoring, bank swallows, certification, giant garter snake, scholarships,

travel grants, TWS National, TWS Western Section, environmental education, Natural Resources Symposium, job opportunities, CESA, mountain yellow-legged frog, feral cats, Pacific fisher, holiday mixer

President's Message

Lucy Triffleman

Well, it looks like autumn is upon us. For those of us in the field, this means darker drives to and from our project sites; for those of us in the office, it means the end of the most frantic period of the year and time to catch up with filing, emails and general desk clearing. For all of us though, this is the season to reflect on the chaos of summer and catch up with friends. In recognition of this fact, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and attendance of those members who were able to make it to our summer events such as the members-only BBQ, TWS Certification Workshop, and PEMA/AEP/TWS joint mixer. For those of you who weren't able to break away from the summer madness, don't worry—there are plenty of opportunities in the upcoming months to learn, network, and improve your overall marketability via our ongoing brown bag events, annual Natural Resources Symposium, and holiday mixer, as well as our forthcoming giant garter snake workshop. Information regarding all these events is described below. I would also like to encourage everyone who can to attend the TWS National Conference in Snowbird, UT, at the end of this month. Information and registration is located here:

<http://joomla.wildlife.org/>

I look forward to another great season working with, and for, all of you, our valuable members. If you have any questions, comments, or words of advise, please do not hesitate to contact me. Happy Fall!

Scholarships

Randi Logsdon

Congratulations to the winners of Chapter-awarded scholarships! Michael Starkey will be awarded a \$200 travel scholarship to attend the National conference in Snowbird, Utah. Michael is a student member with local work experience and serious ambition to contribute to the wildlife profession as a biologist. He attends workshops to become educated on wildlife, and both gave a presentation and hosted a booth at the reptile and amphibian show for Save the Frogs. Congratulations Michael!

Three academic scholarships are being awarded this year, to one undergraduate and two graduate applicants. Dan Skalos, a biological technician with U.S. Geological Survey and graduate student working with white-fronted geese, was awarded \$500. Katie Moriarty, a graduate student from Oregon State University, received a scholarship for \$250; and Joel Seps, from Sacramento, was also awarded \$250. Katie is working on American marten in the Sierra Nevada and has been an active member of TWS-West, including holding leadership positions. Joel Seps is an undergraduate at Cosumnes River College pursuing a four-year degree in biology with enthusiastic dedication to our field.

The Chapter provides scholarships to support deserving students as they complete their education. Applicants are rated on application appearance, academic performance, references, financial need, extracurricular involvement in the wildlife biology field, and the potential for strengthening the field and TWS. Awardees are also given professional opportunities, such as a presentation at the Chapter's Natural Resources Symposium and a chance to write an article on any wildlife topic for the newsletter.

There are still funds available for additional scholarships. The deadline for academic scholarships is **December 1**, and for travel scholarships is two months prior to the event. Details and the application are on our web site (http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=192&Itemid=305).

Treasurer's Report

Hal Holland

As of August 6, 2010, the Chapter balance was \$19,801.61 (ING CD: \$10006.14, ING Savings: \$1776.13, B of A Checking: \$8,019.3). The Account Balance to Date was \$ - 100.56 (Income = \$1710.10, Expenditures: \$ -1810.66). There were no major

expenses at this point. Dues came in after the last board meeting, and charge cards have been transferred over to Lucy Triffleman, Hal Holland, and Nicole Smith. The member-only BBQ expenses were approximately \$108. Automatic rollover of the CD was at 0.75% interest, but we possibly could get a higher interest rate (2 – 3%) at another location.

Executive Board Happenings

Randi Logsdon

Our last Executive Board meeting was held on August 6 in Sacramento. Topics discussed were: Treasurer's report and a vote to move money into an account with a higher interest rate, scholarship decisions, upcoming events, community outreach, and technical communications such as the website. Other business discussed was the idea of putting an Elections Committee together in conformance with by-laws.

The Board has also been informally discussing the Chapter developing a feral cat policy consistent with TWS National, and providing education through local and online avenues on the impacts of feral cat colonies and free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife. The board is also discussing providing a \$400 donation to help other chapters sponsor the student resume workshop at the TWS Western Section conference in February, and keeping Chapter membership dues at the low price of \$10 to help members get through California's economy and budget crises. While the Chapter continues to enthusiastically provide generous events and service to its membership, the Board is making a concerted effort to responsibly maintain budget constraints to sustain Chapter offerings.

Our Next Board Meeting

Our next Board meeting will be held **Wednesday, October 20**, at the **Hoppy Brewing Company, 12:00 – 2:30 PM, 6300 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento**. Please feel free to attend or let us know if there is a topic you would like us to discuss.

Membership

Canh Nguyen

Please join the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter to help support the Chapter. Membership dues will help keep workshops affordable, offer more scholarships, maintain the website, support local events, and offer great social/mixer events. Membership is \$10 and can be accessed through the website below:

http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/images/pdfs/chaptersignup_formfillable.doc

UC Davis Student Chapter

Maxime Lambert, UC Davis Student Chapter Representative

This is Max Lambert and I would like to introduce myself as the new Public Relations Manager and the new student representative. I am a senior Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology student, and am currently in the process of applying to PhD programs in Conservation Biology. My main taxonomic interests are with reptiles and amphibians, but I am also a big fan of birds and have worked at the Raptor Center for three years. My goal is to be able to conduct research in the fields of conservation biology, especially as applied to habitat degradation and restoration.

We are excited to have our first meeting on campus on **October 6th**. Sac-Shasta Board Members are invited to this meeting. It should be an interesting meeting, as the newest professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, Dr. Brian Todd, will be giving a short talk and will be bringing a snake or two.

Officers are hoping to increase participation a good deal this year here at UC Davis. If anyone has any questions for me or our President, please feel free to email me (mrlambert@ucdavis.edu) or Bridgette Kirk (bdkirk@ucdavis.edu).

UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giant Garter Snake Workshop

Laura Patterson

We are currently working on determining whether the Giant Garter Snake Workshop will take place late this year or early next year. We will release the details of the workshop dates and proposed agenda as soon as we have them. In the meantime, if you or someone you know has information on the giant garter snake that could be presented either as a talk or a poster, please contact any of the board members (see last page). Thanks for your patience and stay tuned for updates!



Holiday Mixer Announcement

Lucy Triffleman

The Sac-Shasta Chapter is proud to announce our joint holiday party with our friends at AEP. This year's event will be held at:

**The Blue Cue Pool Hall (1004 28th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816-5108)
December 9, 2010**

Exact times TBD, but it will be after work!

This event will once again be free to all attendees (member or not), and will include free appetizers, drink tickets, and pool table use for the duration of the event. If you are interested in attending or in volunteering to coordinate this event, please contact Lucy Triffleman (ltriffleman@westervelt.com). More information to come. This is one of our most popular events of the year, so we'd love to see you there!

Brown-bag Seminar Series "Stochastic Events"

Dawn LoBaugh

Got skinks? Well, you might not know until you set out 525 pitfall traps, 125 snake traps, and 45 cover boards. Wildlife species, whether listed or not, warrant our study. Above all, we need to understand their biology so that they simply don't join the list of the declining, or if they do, to ensure solid natural history and ecology data are available to quickly address their decline and hopefully their recovery. This is true not only for those areas that are undergoing change, but also for those areas of a more static nature, especially to facilitate study of stochastic events such as fires and floods.

Please join us on **October 12** at noon, 1610 Arden Way, Ste.175, for an informative and entertaining presentation by Tom Haas on the Long-Term Ecological Monitoring project that Parus Consulting is conducting for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego County. The methods--and more importantly--the reasons for conducting long-term species monitoring will be discussed.

The presentation will be about 50/50 individual species survival and re-establishment after a stochastic event, and how long-term monitoring (including methods) is useful and necessary to truly understand how an event impacts an area. Tom will speak about species that are of interest to us here in northern California. Some of the

animals discussed may include the dusky-footed woodrat, brush rabbit, kangaroo rats, and pocket mice, and the need for more long-term monitoring of full suites of species and natural systems.

Weeds and Wildlife: Impacts and Interactions

The Western Section (TWS West) is participating in a cooperative meeting with the California Invasive Plant Council in Ventura, **October 14-16**. It's titled: "Weeds and Wildlife: Impacts and Interactions." There is a lot of information available at the website below:

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index.php>. TWS West is sponsoring a half-day session on wildlife and invasive species on Friday: **BALANCING MANAGEMENT FOR INVASIVE PLANTS & WILDLIFE**. Registration is now open! There's a one-day, special rate for persons who only plan to attend on Friday. This should be a great opportunity to meet some future cooperators in our war on weeds. There are also some awesome field trips, discussion sessions, and more. TWS-West is now planning a complimentary "Wildlife and Weeds" session for the 2011 meeting in Riverside (February 8-12).

2010 Natural Resource Symposium

Wednesday, November 3, 2010
California State University, Sacramento
University Union, Foothill Suite
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This symposium is an opportunity for biologists conducting research, management, regulation, restoration, and conservation activities in the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Area to exchange information, ideas, results, and progress of their work on natural communities, wildlife, and plant species. For more information, contact Canh Nguyen, cvnguyen@dfg.ca.gov.

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference



Registration for The Wildlife Society Annual Conference is now open. Go to www.wildlife.org/registration/. The conference takes place **October 2-7, 2010** in Snowbird, UT (just outside of Salt Lake City). Registrants earn

contact hours towards The Wildlife Society's professional development and certification renewal requirements in the area of "Organized Activities" for each session attended. Also, for every registration fee received, \$5.00 will be donated for a carbon offset program to TreeUtah, an organization dedicated to the planting and stewardship of trees throughout the state of Utah. Each donation covers the cost to plant and care for one seedling for two to three years.

Sunday October 3 stands out as the don't-miss day with a great mix of science and fun. Concurrent sessions kick the day off. Following the morning sessions, a distinguished group of speakers will host the Plenary session, "There's More to Diversity Than Just the Wildlife." For more information on the Plenary and biographies on each speaker, please visit the conference site below. After the Plenary session join Ronald F. Labisky, 2009 Aldo Leopold Memorial Award winner, for his address, "Strong Professional Headwinds: Some Thoughts to Ponder." The afternoon continues with the 73rd Annual Awards Ceremony, including the presentation of the 2010 Aldo Leopold Memorial Award, the announcement of TWS Fellows, and other Society Awards. The afternoon session is followed by the Opening Night Reception/Dinner.

There is still time to sign-up for a workshop. All the workshops are taking place on **Saturday, October 2**. For a complete list of workshops visit the conference site below. There are still openings in most of the field trips. Field trips take place on either **Saturday, October 2** or **Thursday, October 7**. To view a complete list of field trips visit the conference site below. If you already registered for the conference and would like to add a workshop or field trip, please contact TWS Conference and Membership Associate, Lisa Moll, at 301-897-9770 x312 or lisa@wildlife.org. If you have not registered yet, you can add a workshop or field trip when you register.

For travel information, preliminary program, and other details, visit the conference site (<http://www.info.wildlife.org/l.jsp?d=3253.166215.825.0q2Nz9dA.A>).

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop

The Natural Resources Communication Workshop, sponsored by the Western Section of The Wildlife Society, will be held at **California State University, Chico from January 10-14, 2011**. The week-long workshop is designed to help natural resource workers more effectively communicate with general as well as technical audiences through personal presentations using good visual aids, especially computer-generated PowerPoint images. The hands-on workshop enhances

participants' communication skills in planning, preparing, presenting, and evaluating presentations. A variety of topics are covered including selecting communication strategies for specific audiences, creating computer-generated graphics, avoiding PowerPoint presentation "pitfalls," and handling equipment problems. A special session entitled "Verbal Victories" provides hints for handling difficult, or even hostile, audiences. The workshop's instructor is Dr. Jon Hooper, a Certified Wildlife Biologist and longtime member of The Wildlife Society. The initial deadline for applications is **October 29, 2010**. Submit applications to: Dr. Jon K. Hooper, Dept. Recreation and Parks Management, Calif. State University, Chico, CA 95929-0560. For more information, contact Jon by calling (530) 898-5811, faxing (530) 898-6557, or e-mailing jhooper@csuchico.edu.

TWS-Western Section Conference in Riverside February 8-12, 2011

The formal call for papers for the Riverside 2011 PRE-CONFERENCE RAPTOR SYMPOSIUM, which will cover raptor biology, management, monitoring, "hot topics," and more is on the website: <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php>. Click on "announcements" over on the right side.

PAST EVENTS

August Brown-Bag Series Lecture

Laura Patterson

GIS and GPS survey monitoring for bank swallows, August 10, 2010

It was a packed house at the August Brown Bag Seminar held at the federal building on Cottage Way. The audience was treated to an entertaining and very informative presentation by Adam Henderson, Department of Water Resources, who reported on a joint effort with The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to annually map, photograph, and characterize bank swallow habitat and its occupancy along the Sacramento River. Adam discussed a number of useful tools in real-time data collection and documentation of resource availability and change over time.



PEMA/AEP/TWS Fall Mixer

Lucy Triffleman



Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the PEMA/AEP/TWS fall mixer at River City Brewing Company (RCBC) on August 27th! Approximately 50 people showed up between these three organizations, representing members from academia, State and federal agencies, and various consulting firms from throughout the region. Attendees enjoyed drinks and free appetizers from 7 to 10 PM in RCBC's great private room facilities. The event provided a terrific chance to catch up on new research and State and federal policy developments as well as new job opportunities. Attendance to all mixers is on the rise, so those interested in increasing their professional networking opportunities are encouraged to attend future events.



Members Only BBQ at

On June 20, the Chapter held a membership barbecue at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor's Center, complete with a tour of wetland restoration sites led by Harry McQuillen, BLM Preserve Manager. The following photograph is the inaugural valve opening for new wetlands on the preserve.



Certification Workshop

Nicole Smith

On August 8, the Chapter hosted a Certification Workshop to assist chapter members with obtaining Professional Certification. Professional Certification is strongly recommended by The Wildlife Society, as an indication of an individual's academic and continuing education, and professional experience. In addition, certification is looked upon favorably by employers, regulatory agencies, and outsiders to our profession. It seemed that Chapter members felt the same way; we had a packed house! Although this was a small event (designed for approximately 10 attendees), the workshop sold out quickly and even had a waiting list. Rhys Evans, Western Section's Professional Development Chair, led the workshop, as he had in years past. Rhys is currently a Certified Wildlife Biologist, and has been providing Section members with the tools and knowledge needed to start the certification process for many years. As part of this workshop, Rhys shared this knowledge with Chapter members, as well as including detailed information about recertification and Professional Development Certificates. Westervelt Ecological Services, in the Natomas area of Sacramento, generously allowed the Chapter to use their office as the workshop location, which helped to keep the cost of attendance affordable for all members. We were pleased to see this event well attended, and the Chapter will continue to provide opportunities such as these in an effort to serve members in their continuing professional development.

JOB and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out The Wildlife Society's Wildlife Careers Online: <http://careers.wildlife.org>, and the TWS-West job site at: http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=195&Itemid=286.

For local job announcements, check: http://joomla.wildlife.org/SacramentoShasta/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=190&Itemid=303 or http://joomla.wildlife.org/Western/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=196&Itemid=331.

If anyone has job or volunteer opportunities to post in our next newsletter, please contact the editor.

NOTICENEW INFORMATION***

CESA Activity

Check Fish and Game Commission (FGC) or DFG web sites, or you may find announcements in the California

Register, regarding the latest developments with CESA petitions, including the candidacy of mountain yellow-legged frog, rejection of candidacy for Pacific fisher, and other important wildlife issues. Get involved! We urge you to read through the FGC agendas for upcoming meetings and show up to comment on issues that are important to you. The next meetings are **September 29** at the Lions Gate Hotel in McClellan, and **October 20-21** at Four Points by Sheraton in San Diego. See <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2010/2010mtgs.asp> for agenda and future meetings.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Guided Tours Continue

The next one is **October 9, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Tour the 16,000-acre Yolo Wildlife Area with an experienced field trip leader on the second Saturday of each month from September through June. View flooded seasonal and permanent wetlands, native grasslands, and young riparian forests. Depending on the season, look for migrating and resident waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds, raptors and wading birds. A \$5 donation is suggested. More information is online at www.yolobasin.org/events.cfm.

Road Ecology:

It's a great time for the UC Davis Road Ecology Center. They have several current and proposed wildlife movement studies, including citizen science training. They are organizing the California Connectivity Forum (**Dec. 1, 2010**). They have collaborated with the Information Center for the Environment to develop the very successful California Roadkill Observation System (www.wildlifecrossing.net/California/). The California Connectivity Forum has an exciting lineup of speakers and panels discussing connectivity in land and watery environments, from the point of view of wildlife and people, and taking into account both the theoretical and practical aspects of connectivity. It will be one-stop shopping for getting state of the art connectivity information and will be held between 8:30 am and 5 pm in the Activities and Recreation Center on the UC Davis campus on December 1st (changed from Dec 8th).

Remember

By National membership vote and a change in bylaws, Associate Wildlife Biologists and Certified Wildlife Biologists must minimally be members in good standing of The Wildlife Society to retain their Certifications.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter welcomes comments and input from our members. If you have suggestions for articles, questions you want answered, things you'd like to see us do, or events to announce, please let us know! Contact any one of the Board members.

The Sacramento-Shasta Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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